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[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.24)]

2017/14. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies, protracted crises and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2017/215 of 7 April 2017, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2017 session would be "Restoring humanity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability" and that it would convene three panel discussions under the segment,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States, the United Nations and their capacity caused by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, health emergencies and epidemic outbreaks, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises, emphasizing the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries, to be provided efficiently and effectively, and emphasizing also the need for development and humanitarian actors to work better together to strengthen resilience, including urban resilience, in terms of prevention, preparedness and response,

Expressing grave concern at the unprecedented number of people affected and displaced by humanitarian emergencies, including frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, recognizing the need

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for burden-sharing, and noting with appreciation efforts at the national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing also the need for international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Noting the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Recognizing the critical role of host countries and communities, especially developing countries, in addressing the needs of affected populations in humanitarian emergencies, and reiterating the need for timely and coordinated support from the international community to hosts and affected countries to strengthen their development and resilience,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] and the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law,

Recalling also the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005,[3] as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Strongly condemning acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport, equipment and supplies, as well as hospitals

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2404, No. 43425.

and other medical facilities, and deploring the long-term consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and the health-care systems of the countries concerned,

Strongly condemning also all attacks, threats and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the consequences of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Noting with grave concern that children and youth continue to lack education in situations of humanitarian emergencies, recognizing that the impact of humanitarian emergencies on education presents humanitarian and development challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies, as a contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, and to provide quality education for all, in particular children in humanitarian emergencies, and in this regard reaffirming that education should pursue a contribution to peace,

Expressing deep concern at all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, and noting with great concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in emergency situations and that civilians are the main victims of violations of international humanitarian law committed by parties to armed conflict,

Affirming the need for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national and regional levels is critical to reducing the risk and the impact of disasters and vulnerabilities to hazards, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience, including through disaster preparedness, is a multidimensional process including both humanitarian and development actors in support of long-term development, stressing the need for enhanced investment in building national and local capacities for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, particularly in developing countries, as well as investment in building regional capacities,

Recognizing, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5]

[4] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance will be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Encouraging closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action,

Recognizing that humanitarian emergencies may disproportionately affect women and girls and that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes relevant to such emergencies, that the specific needs and interests of women and girls, including for education and health, are identified and safely and adequately addressed in strategies and responses, as appropriate, and that the rights of women and girls are promoted and protected in humanitarian emergencies,

Reaffirming that the specific needs and priorities, as well as capacities, of women, girls, men and boys of different ages should be identified, responded to and mainstreamed into humanitarian assistance programming at all stages in a comprehensive and consistent manner, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, women, girls and boys face heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being,

Recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, recognizing also the need to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, and in this regard stressing the importance of ensuring non-discrimination, meaningful participation in decision-making processes, as well as cooperation and coordination in the provision of assistance to ensure that their needs are addressed,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels to the needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

Recognizing that Member States and the United Nations system need to continue their work through, inter alia, strengthening partnerships at all levels with relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, in support of national efforts, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts adhere to humanitarian principles,

Stressing the need for Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the specific needs of the most vulnerable, thereby contributing to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] including the call to leave no one behind,

Recognizing that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

Reaffirming further the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,[7] and underlining the need for active participation by Member States in the processes leading up to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as the global compact on refugees, and reaffirming the comprehensive refugee response framework, as outlined in annex I to the New York Declaration, as an important approach to ensure a more predictable and sustainable response to large movements of refugees, and welcoming its practical application,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

Stressing that the international community should provide, in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

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[6] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/1.

[8] A/72/76-E/2017/58.

2. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen coordination, preparedness and response efforts and to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through enhancing complementarity with and between relevant stakeholders, such as affected Governments, regional organizations, donors, development organizations, civil society and the private sector, involved in response efforts to make use of their comparative advantages and resources;

4. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance and improve the efficiency of existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters, and encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate, in consultation with Governments, to consider, where possible, common objectives, including risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through coordinated and complementary assessments, analysis, and multi-year planning and programming and funding and increased investment in preparedness, based on a prioritization of needs and conducted in line with humanitarian principles, in order to reduce suffering and losses and the overall impact of humanitarian crises, and in this regard emphasizes that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to longer-term development, humanitarian response, particularly in protracted crises, needs to be planned over a multi-year framework, as appropriate, and linked with development planning processes, while integrating key stakeholders, such as Governments, regional organizations and international financial institutions, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations to consider applying, in coordination with national authorities, risk-management tools in order to allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises, the different vulnerabilities of countries and regions and the risk exposures of affected populations, and in this regard notes the further development of established tools and innovative mechanisms, such as through the introduction of forecast-based financing mechanisms, networking of disaster risk reduction centres, comprehensive preparedness measures and the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and information regarding national and regional contexts, taking into account the environmental impact;

7. *Urges* United Nations agencies and international organizations, in their humanitarian assistance efforts, to continue to improve the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments, and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with affected States, and in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action encourages international humanitarian organizations and relevant actors to continue to work with national and local authorities as well as with civil society and affected populations, and recognizes the role of affected communities in identifying urgent needs and requirements in order to ensure an efficient response;

8. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[4] through, inter alia, disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, and other proactive measures that aim to prevent new and reduce existing risk, in order to minimize humanitarian needs;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and multi-hazard early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing adverse impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable, thereby also contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to identify and monitor disaster risk, including vulnerability to natural hazards;

10. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, reduce and address sustainably vulnerabilities related to climate change and natural disasters, particularly with least developed countries and small island developing States and their communities;

11. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and noting the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the Blueprint for Action prepared by them;

12. *Urges* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further strengthen their efforts in supporting national Governments in mapping emergency preparedness and response capacities at the country and regional levels, in order to better facilitate the complementarity of disaster response efforts between national and international capacities, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote, as appropriate, the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance and to integrate risk management into national development plans;

13. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response through addressing the specific needs, challenges and coping

capacities of women, girls, men and boys on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and taking into account information provided by affected States, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes in order to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian action, and encourages greater utilization of the gender marker and other tools, including age-sensitive tools, throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

14. *Recognizes* the critical role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership and their participation in the planning, design and implementation of response strategies, including through strengthening partnerships with and building capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate, and by further promoting gender-responsive humanitarian programming;

15. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, to ensure reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, and in this regard recognizes that relevant services, including the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health, are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

16. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence, while ensuring the safety of victims, in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their response in cooperation with relevant organizations, such as local women's organizations as appropriate, including by seeking to ensure the provision of meaningful access to medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, for all victims, survivors and those affected by such violence, calls for a more effective response, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to consider engaging in this area, including through prevention, mitigation and response measures;

17. *Underscores* that it is critically important for civilians, in particular women and children, to be protected from any form of abuse or exploitation, and welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the system, and stresses that victims should be at the core of such efforts;

18. *Recognizes* that humanitarian emergencies weaken the ability of social services, including health systems, to deliver essential life-saving assistance, and produce setbacks in health development, and also recognizes that resilient health systems can reduce the impact of disasters, and stresses the need to build resilient health systems at the national, regional and global levels, especially capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, calls upon the World Health Organization, the United Nations humanitarian system, other humanitarian organizations and other relevant actors to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination and response capacities so as to assist Member States, upon request, in effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and emergencies with health consequences in humanitarian settings, ensuring that humanitarian assistance does not unintentionally weaken health systems, and takes note of the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events;

19. *Stresses* the need to foster global preparedness and support the development of measures, including rapid response mechanisms, to respond to health emergencies, and urges Member States to increase their efforts to strengthen global response capacities;

20. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, including school feeding programmes, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

21. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

22. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

23. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

24. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

25. *Also urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct, full,

prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

26. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, acts of terrorism and attacks on humanitarian convoys, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

27. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all, and also reaffirms the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels and ages, inter alia, for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development, and in this regard reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law and strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes in contravention of international humanitarian law;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[9] and international human rights obligations;

29. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure better protection of, assistance for as well as self-reliance and resilience of internally displaced persons, including through appropriate cooperation with United Nations organizations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and international financial institutions, in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement, by adopting and implementing policies and strategies, on a multi-year basis as applicable, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement [10] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons, in further addressing barriers and obstacles that affect support for internally displaced persons, and in finding durable solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

30. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement, and additional pressure on host communities, and encourages the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[10] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

31. *Also recognizes* the significant increase in forced displacement worldwide, and stresses the need to comprehensively respond to the specific needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities in humanitarian and development planning;

32. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

33. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

34. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian assistance through, inter alia, continued and enhanced dialogue with Member States, including on the processes, activities and decisions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and further strengthening, within existing resources and mandates, the coordination abilities of the humanitarian coordinator, and in this regard encourages Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to continue to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat so as to ensure effective and efficient delivery of the humanitarian response to affected people;

35. *Recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

36. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments and relevant local organizations, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations to ensure that their different and specific needs are appropriately addressed;

37. *Encourages* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste and abuse and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

38. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in promoting innovation as a means of developing tools that enhance preparedness and reduce fragility and risks through, inter alia, increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation and access to information and communications

technologies, and to identify, promote and integrate best practices and lessons learned with regard to, inter alia, partnerships, procurement, collaboration and coordination between agencies and organizations, and in this regard notes the importance of promoting and supporting innovation and developing local capacities as a priority and welcomes innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimum logistical and infrastructure implications;

39. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to respond more effectively to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash-based transfer mechanisms, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to support the development of local markets and strengthen national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue to build their capacity to systematically consider cash-based transfer programming, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance;

40. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect, and all States to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law, as well as to comply with their obligations under human rights law and refugee law, as applicable;

41. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[1] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[11] in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

42. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

43. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

44. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

45. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

46. *Urges* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected States, recognizes that humanitarian assistance should be provided in ways that are supportive of early recovery, sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, and recalls that early recovery requires timely, effective and predictable funding through humanitarian and development financing, as appropriate, to meet enduring humanitarian, recovery and post-crisis priorities while simultaneously building national and local capacities;

47. *Encourages* the United Nations and relevant humanitarian organizations, in cooperation and coordination with Member States, respecting their national priorities, and consistent with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to support and build national and local capacities, including through increasing predictable and, as appropriate, direct financing to national and local partners, including women's groups, with a focus on preparedness, response, recovery and coordination capacities, and encourages Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

48. *Recognizes* that funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach in order to effectively and sufficiently address the immediate needs of all affected populations in emergency situations, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies and those of a long-term nature, and the underlying causes of crises, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant entities to provide adequate funding and investment in preparedness and resilience-building, including from humanitarian and development budgets, reduce earmarking and increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding, as appropriate, while recognizing the need for transparency in how core and non-earmarked funding is used;

49. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

50. *Stresses* the need to enhance resource mobilization efforts to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, including through additional contributions from non-traditional donors, exploring innovative mechanisms, such as the utilization of risk-informed anticipatory decision-making, flexible funding for multi-year appeals through existing tools such as consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, such as the country-based pooled funds, and to continue to broaden partnerships and the donor base in order to increase the predictability and effectiveness of funding, and to promote South-South and horizontal and triangular cooperation globally, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, Member States to contribute to the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

51. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and therefore welcomes the call by the Secretary-General to double the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars by 2018, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the Fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund;

52. *Notes* the holding of the first World Humanitarian Summit, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016;

53. *Encourages* Member States to work closely with the United Nations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and local entities, as appropriate, to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and in this regard recalls the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[12] and takes note of the commitments undertaken therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the concrete measures taken and the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

55. *Requests* the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to continue their efforts with a view to eliminating duplication between the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, while promoting their complementarity.

38th plenary meeting
23 June 2017

[12] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

United Nations E/RES/2017/15

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[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/15. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind the consultative nature of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and their role as a forum for promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development

[1] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

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and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Doha Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020,

Reaffirming the commitment expressed by Member States in the Doha Declaration to endeavour to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls, and to promote gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women offenders into society, taking into consideration the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[3]

Recalling its resolution 71/206 of 19 December 2016, in which it requested the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Encouraged by the success of the Thirteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[5] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and also welcomes in that regard the contribution of the Government of Qatar;

3. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Decides* that the duration of the Fourteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

5. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress shall be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda";

6. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

[4] E/CN.15/2017/11.

[5] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

7. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

9. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
5. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.
6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:
   (*a*) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
   (*b*) New and emerging forms of crime.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

10. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

(*a*) Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;

(*b*) Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;

(*c*) Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;

(*d*) Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2019, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary

resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

13. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

14. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the highest possible level at the Fourteenth Congress, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to play an active role in the Fourteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

18. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

19. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress;

20. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-seventh session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/16

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[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/16. Promoting the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights, and emphasizing the fundamental importance of human rights in the daily administration of criminal justice and crime prevention,

Recalling its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, national legislation and existing international law and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflected recent advances in correctional science and best practices,

Mindful of the extensive consultative process culminating in the recommendations of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, a process spanning a period of five years, consisting of technical and expert pre-consultations, meetings in Vienna, Buenos Aires and Cape Town, South Africa, and the active participation and input of Member States from all regions, assisted by representatives of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, intergovernmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, specialized agencies in the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, and non-

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governmental organizations and individual experts in the field of correctional science and human rights,

Recalling its resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015, entitled "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)", in which it adopted the proposed revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and approved the recommendation of the Expert Group that the Rules should be known as "the Nelson Mandela Rules", to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle for global human rights, equality, democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Recalling also that in its resolution 70/175, it decided to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day, observed each year on 18 July,[1] to be also utilized in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance, and to that end invited Member States, regional organizations and organizations of the United Nations system to celebrate the occasion in an appropriate manner,

Recalling further that in the same resolution, it invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider, at its upcoming sessions, reconvening the Expert Group for the purpose of identifying the lessons learned, the means to continue to exchange good practices and the challenges faced in the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules,

Recalling its resolution 71/188 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice", in which it welcomed the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules, recognized the importance of the principle that, except for those lawful limitations demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, persons deprived of their liberty shall retain their non-derogable human rights and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalled that the social rehabilitation and reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty shall be among the essential aims of the criminal justice system, ensuring, as far as possible, that offenders are able to lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life upon their return to society,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/209 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", in which it called upon Member States to implement, where appropriate, the Nelson Mandela Rules, bearing in mind their spirit and purpose, and encouraged Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the dissemination, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the consideration and, where they deemed it necessary, dissemination of manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling other United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners and to alternatives to

[1] See General Assembly resolution 64/13.

imprisonment, in particular the procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[2] the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,[3] the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners,[4] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[5] the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime[6] and the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters,[7]

Bearing in mind the need for vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children, juveniles and women in the administration of justice, in particular while they are deprived of their liberty, as called for in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),[8] the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[9] the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty[10] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[11]

Mindful of the fact that the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the conclusion of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Qatar in April 2015,[12] points to the need to implement and enhance policies for prison inmates that focus on education, work, medical care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and the prevention of recidivism, and to consider the development and strengthening of policies to support the families of inmates, as well as to promote and encourage the use of alternatives to imprisonment, where appropriate, and to review or reform restorative justice and other processes in support of successful reintegration,

Concerned about the negative impact of overcrowding on the enjoyment of human rights by prisoners,

Noting the continuing need to enhance the sharing of information and experiences and technical assistance to improve, where needed, prison conditions and to address different serious challenges such as overcrowding, taking into consideration relevant international standards and norms,

Underscoring that, notwithstanding their non-legally binding nature, the Nelson Mandela Rules represent, as a whole, the minimum conditions which are accepted as suitable by the United Nations and set out what is generally

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[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/47, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 45/111, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[6] Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

[7] Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/12, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

[9] General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex.

[11] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[12] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

accepted as good principles and practices in the treatment of prisoners and in prison management,

Acknowledging the variety of legal frameworks of Member States, and in that regard recognizing that Member States may adapt the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules in accordance with their domestic legal frameworks, as appropriate, bearing in mind the spirit and purposes of the Rules,

Noting with concern the persistence, in various parts of the world, of challenges to the management of prisons consistent with international standards and norms, such as overcrowding, poor prison conditions that may result in serious medical consequences and the presence of prisoners assessed to be of high risk,

1. *Encourages* Member States to endeavour to improve conditions of imprisonment and to promote the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)[11] as the universally acknowledged and updated minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, to use the Rules as a guide in the development of prison laws, policies and practices, to continue exchanging good practices and identifying challenges faced in the practical application of the Rules and to share their experiences in dealing with those challenges;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to address overcrowding in detention facilities by taking effective measures, including through enhancing the availability and use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences, bearing in mind the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[7] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[11] access to legal aid, mechanisms for crime prevention, early release and rehabilitation programmes and the efficiency as well as the capacity of the criminal justice system;

3. *Welcomes* the formation of the Vienna-based Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules as an informal and open-ended group of like-minded Member States, and also welcomes the first meeting of the Group, held during the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at which the Group decided that the following would be its main purposes:

(*a*) Maintaining the momentum generated by the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules for prison management and reform by raising awareness of the Rules as well as by promoting their practical application worldwide;

(*b*) Convening expert consultations on priority aspects relating to prison management during future sessions of the Commission and facilitating common positions, as appropriate;

(*c*) Serving as the main support vehicle for the technical assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under its Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges;

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[11] *General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.*

(d) Facilitating the widest possible involvement of Member States in the yearly celebrations of Nelson Mandela International Day, on 18 July, with the additional objective of promoting humane conditions of imprisonment;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of South Africa for having initiated and for assuming the chair of the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, thereby following up on the leadership it provided throughout the review process for the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, including by hosting the last meeting of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in Cape Town, South Africa, from 2 to 5 March 2015;

5. *Invites* all Member States to consider actively participating in the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules in order to create an informal forum for the exchange of views, experiences and challenges with regard to the practical application of the Rules;

6. *Recognizes* that well-managed prisons and the treatment of prisoners consistent with international standards and norms for crime prevention and criminal justice can also contribute to the implementation by Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[14] and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, in particular;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and its technical assistance and advisory services, provided to Member States upon request, which focus on the three areas of rationalizing the resort to imprisonment, improving prison conditions and strengthening prison management, and supporting the social reintegration of prisoners upon their release;

8. *Reiterates* that good prison management practices, informed by the international standards and norms for crime prevention and criminal justice, should form the basis for the treatment of all categories of prisoners, and highlights in this regard the value of the Nelson Mandela Rules in addressing the specific challenges of high-risk prisoners;

9. *Welcomes* the technical assistance work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with national experts from Member States and with financial support provided by the Government of Germany, on the Nelson Mandela Rules, including the guidance material produced to assist corrections authorities with their application, including on the management of high-risk prisoners;

10. *Also welcomes* the financial support provided by the Government of Qatar for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and

[14] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Public Participation[12] in the form of a technical assistance programme implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which includes a dedicated component on fostering the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue ensuring broad dissemination of the Nelson Mandela Rules, to design guidance material and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States, upon request, in the field of penal reform, in order to develop or strengthen penitentiary legislation, procedures, policies and practices consistent with the Rules;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in relation to the practical implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules among Member States;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider allocating adequate human and financial resources to assist in the improvement of prison conditions, including through upgrading and modernizing prison facilities, and the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

14. *Acknowledges* the important role of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in contributing to the dissemination, promotion and practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and invites them to pursue cooperation and joint action.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/17

Economic and Social Council

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[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/17. Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,p

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions on technical and legislative assistance in countering terrorism, especially the most recent ones,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review",

Recalling that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peaceful and secure societies and that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed and that they are to be unequivocally condemned, especially when they indiscriminately target or injure civilians,

Stressing again the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

Emphasizing the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while fully respecting the fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] and the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[3]

[1] General Assembly resolutions 70/148, 70/177, 70/291, 71/151 and 71/209; and Security Council resolutions 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2347 (2017) and 2349 (2017).

[2] General Assembly resolutions 53/243 A and B.

[3] General Assembly resolution 56/6.

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Recalling in particular its resolution 70/177 of 17 December 2015, in which it, inter alia, called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the elaboration of technical tools and publications, in consultation with Member States,

Reiterating all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy[4] and the need for States to continue to implement the Strategy, as reaffirmed in its resolution 70/291,

Recognizing the importance of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and in that regard stressing the importance of an integrated and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars, reaffirming the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy,

Noting, in that regard, the need to continue to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the crime prevention and criminal justice context, reiterating that that work needs to be done in close coordination with Member States,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,[5]

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the coordination of the work of United Nations entities on counter-terrorism and to ensure a balanced implementation of all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in close coordination with the relevant entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States for the ratification and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/288.

[5] E/CN.15/2017/5.

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to promote, at the national level, effective coordination among law enforcement and other relevant entities and authorities responsible for preventing and countering terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request and within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance in that regard;

3. *Urges* Member States to continue to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in order to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to effectively implement relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions, to consider entering, when appropriate, into treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant personnel on executing international cooperation activities, and calls upon all States to consider providing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the contact details of and other relevant information about designated authorities for its repository database;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States to those ends, including by continuing and enhancing its assistance related to international legal and judicial cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism, including in criminal matters related to foreign terrorist fighters, and by fostering the development of strong and effective central authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in accordance with applicable international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate in the area of countering and preventing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge and to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, on effective measures for criminal justice responses addressing the prevention of terrorism in compliance with all their obligations under international law, in particular human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, in full conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further enhance technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, upon request, to develop their capacity to effectively respond to, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist acts, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the development of technical tools and publications, within its mandate and in close consultation with Member States;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in collaboration with, when appropriate, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, including returning foreign terrorist fighters, through its capacity-building activities, with regard to enhancing their cooperation, developing relevant measures and developing appropriate criminal justice responses, to prevent the financing, mobilization, travel, recruitment, organization and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, and to develop and implement appropriate criminal justice responses, including prosecution and effective reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters, in compliance with relevant obligations under international and domestic law;

9. *Encourages* Member States to further identify, analyse and counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its relevant mandates, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen border management to effectively prevent the movements of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist groups, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to that end to requesting States;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the destruction of and trafficking in cultural heritage by terrorists;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop its specialized legal knowledge in close consultation with Member States in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States so as to prevent and counter the use of information and communications technology, in particular the Internet and other media, to plan, incite, recruit for, fund or commit terrorist attacks, and to support those Member States in effectively criminalizing, investigating and prosecuting such acts in accordance with domestic law and applicable international law on due process while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy and the freedom of expression, and to encourage the use of the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism;

13. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national legislation, with emphasis on the special needs of women and children;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its Global Programme on Violence against Children, to continue to support requesting Member States, in accordance with relevant national legislation, in ensuring that children alleged to have, accused of having, or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crime, are treated in a manner that observes their rights and respects their dignity in accordance with applicable international law, in particular the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] and that relevant measures are taken to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups and terrorist groups;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism, in full compliance with human rights law, in order to prevent the recruitment of women and girls as terrorists and promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists;

16. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to strengthen its cooperation with international organizations and relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, in the delivery of technical assistance, whenever appropriate, and notes the ongoing joint initiatives developed by the Office with the Committee and its Executive Directorate and the entities of the Task Force;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional sustainable voluntary financial contributions and providing in-kind support, in particular in view of the need for enhanced and effective delivery of technical assistance to assist Member States with the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;[4]

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities, within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

United Nations E/RES/2017/18

Economic and Social Council

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18 August 2017

2017 session
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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/18. Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development, and which requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent it, to prosecute and punish the traffickers and to protect the victims, as well as a criminal justice response commensurate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling that trafficking in persons impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for its eradication,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, investigate and punish the perpetrators and protect and assist the victims thereof, and that not doing so impairs the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of those victims,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions and recent special meetings on trafficking in persons held by the main organs of the United Nations with a mandate relating to trafficking in persons that addressed various aspects of the crime,

Recognizing the significance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(*a*) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

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United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(*b*) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(*c*) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(*d*) To promote a human rights-based and a gender- and age-sensitive approach to addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and to strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators,

(*e*) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society organizations and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(*f*) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking, to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources to increase tangible results in combating human trafficking in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to combat trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies,

Recognizing that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Noting the activities of the working group of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group,[3]

Recognizing that the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in accordance with the Global Plan of Action, is aimed at providing victims of trafficking in persons with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and welcoming contributions made to the trust fund by States and all other relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held from 13 to 15 May 2013, during its sixty-seventh session, to appraise the progress achieved in

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[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[3] See A/71/119.

the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, evinced strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons,

Taking note of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192 of 18 December 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session,

Taking note also of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/179 of 17 December 2015, to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the Assembly at its seventy-second session to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments,

Taking note further of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014, and welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and recalling targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the shared commitments of Member States to take measures to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and trafficking in persons, in the context of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Recalling the importance of eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, as well as of ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, also in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Recalling also the continued role of relevant regional, subregional and cross-regional mechanisms and initiatives in combating and eliminating all forms of trafficking in persons, including in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[5] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them effectively;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[5] and invites the

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 64/293.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Invites* the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to consider developing recommendations for measures within its mandate that may also further the goals of the Global Plan of Action;

4. *Invites* all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to continue to actively observe annually the World Day against Trafficking in Persons;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2018, and requests the Office to continue, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, to collect, in a balanced, reliable and comprehensive manner, information on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels for use in those reports and to share best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to integrate the Global Plan of Action into its programmes and activities and to continue to provide, at the national and regional levels, technical assistance to countries, upon their request, aimed at strengthening their ability to effectively implement the Global Plan of Action, the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to continue to increase the activities of the Group related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and, to this end, to incorporate aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and to consider how future activities will be coordinated and how the duplication of efforts will be avoided;

8. *Calls upon* all members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, especially those that are not members of its working group, to participate actively in the work of the Group, including at the level of principals;

9. *Invites* all members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, if they have not yet done so, to designate a focal point responsible for efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/287 of 4 May 2017 on the modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the

Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action, to be held on 27 and 28 September 2017, during the seventy-second session of the Assembly;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the request made to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 to include a section on the implementation by the United Nations system of the Global Plan of Action, within already existing reporting obligations to the Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/19

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 19 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/19. Promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and other relevant international legal instruments, as well as standards and norms pertaining to the treatment of offenders,

• *Recalling also* that, in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[4] Member States expressed willingness to promote and encourage the use of alternatives to imprisonment, where appropriate, and to review or reform restorative justice and other processes in support of successful reintegration,

Noting that the availability of alternatives to imprisonment reduces prison overcrowding, promotes the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society, contributes to the building of a safer community in a sustainable manner and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[5] in particular Goal 16,

Mindful of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[6] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.
[5] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[6] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

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Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[7] which recommend the greater use of non-custodial measures, with adequate safeguards for victims and offenders, including women and girls and other offenders who are vulnerable or come from disadvantaged backgrounds, while outlining key considerations for the proper design and implementation of gender-sensitive non-custodial measures,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[8] in which it was recognized that the development of alternative non-custodial interventions and effective social reintegration programmes could provide an effective way of reducing the number of children in the justice system as well as reducing the risk of violence against children within the justice system,

Bearing in mind also the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters,[9] in which attention was drawn to the fact that restorative justice could provide an adequate response to crime by ensuring a proper balance between the rights of individual offenders, the rights of victims and the concern of society for public safety and crime prevention,

Bearing in mind further that in the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters it is highlighted that restorative justice approaches can provide an opportunity for victims to obtain reparation, feel safer and seek closure, allow offenders to gain insight into the causes and effects of their behaviour and to take responsibility in a meaningful way, and enable communities to understand the underlying causes of crime, to promote community well-being and to prevent crime,

Bearing in mind the principle that the description of offences and of legal defences is reserved for the domestic law of States and that offences are to be prosecuted and punished in conformity with that law,

Mindful of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,[10] in which it is stressed that legal aid could play an important role in facilitating diversion and the use of community-based sanctions and measures, including non-custodial measures,

Taking note of the *Handbook of Basic Principles and Promising Practices on Alternatives to Imprisonment*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which sets out key considerations in implementing alternatives to imprisonment at each stage of the criminal justice process and strategies for developing alternatives for specific categories of offenders,

Bearing in mind the importance of promoting national sentencing policies, practices or guidelines for the treatment of offenders in which the severity of penalties for offenders is proportionate to the gravity of the offences and in which both mitigating and aggravating circumstances are taken into account, consistent with applicable international law and in accordance with national legislation,

Encouraging the development, adoption and implementation, with due regard for national, constitutional, legal and administrative systems, of alternative or

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[7] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex.

[9] Resolution 2002/12, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 67/187, annex.

additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, in accordance with applicable international law, including the three international drug control conventions, and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant United Nations standards and rules, such as the Tokyo Rules,

1. *Encourages* Member States, in implementing holistic and comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies, to promote, as appropriate, alternatives to imprisonment, from the pretrial stage to the post-sentencing stage, taking into account the background, gender, age and other specific circumstances of offenders, including their vulnerability, and the objective of their rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, legislative or other measures to promote and encourage the implementation of non-custodial measures and sanctions as alternatives to imprisonment, including through restorative justice and the provision of treatment and rehabilitative programmes for offenders in the community, and further encourages Member States to implement development-oriented interventions for offenders and their local communities that are aimed at addressing the underlying problems leading to offenders' contact with the criminal justice system and facilitating their reintegration into society;

3. *Further encourages* Member States, in promoting alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies, to continue to take into consideration the importance of the proportionality of sanctions;

4. *Encourages* Member States to build capacity and provide adequate resources for the effective implementation of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into account the potential role of the community, civil society and the private sector, where appropriate, in the provision of legal aid and the treatment, social rehabilitation, reintegration and, as necessary, aftercare of offenders;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to build or enhance the capacity of criminal justice officials and practitioners, including through specialized training to promote better understanding and recognition of specific needs and conditions of offenders, while considering the risks to victims and society;

6. *Further encourages* Member States, in cooperation with academia and civil society, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to promote the monitoring and evaluation of the use of alternatives to imprisonment in order to assess their effectiveness in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to enhance cooperation and coordination at all levels, including with relevant non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, in order to better understand, identify, develop and implement effective policies on alternatives to imprisonment, in particular through the sharing of information, knowledge and best practices, including with regard to challenges to the implementation of such policies;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to continue its efforts to promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data on alternatives to imprisonment and research on

relevant policies that relate to the social reintegration of offenders and reduce recidivism;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

Economic and Social Council

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2017 session
Agenda item 19 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2017/28)*]

2017/20. Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals,[2] and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Reaffirming also that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[4] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[5] which, together

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Reaffirming further the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[6] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[7]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[8] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission,[9]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[10] in its entirety, and reiterating that the operational recommendations contained therein are integrated, indivisible, multidisciplinary and mutually reinforcing and are aimed at a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Reaffirming further its commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

Considering the importance of taking into account the local know-how of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the implementation of development projects,

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[6] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[9] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[10] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

Recalling Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009,[8] 53/6 of 12 March 2010,[11] 54/4 of 25 March 2011,[12] 55/4 of 16 March 2012,[13] 57/1 of 21 March 2014[9] and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,[14]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the efforts of Member States to promote the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development by organizing international seminars and workshops that draw on best practices, lessons learned and local wisdom in alternative development programmes, such as those discussed at the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,[15] which focused on enhancing individual and community resilience and recognized alternative development programmes as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of King Rama IX of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem, including illicit drug-related activities, and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of drug crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain major challenges in countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of drug crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development projects and programmes, has accounted for only a minor share of official development assistance and has reached only a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation at the global level,

1. *Urges* Member States, when designing alternative development interventions, to take into due consideration the section entitled "Operational recommendations on alternative development: regional, interregional and

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[12] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[13] Ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 8* (E/2012/28), chap. I, sect. B.

[14] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 8* (E/2015/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[15] E/CN.7/2016/13, annex.

international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug policy, addressing socioeconomic issues" of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem";[10]

2. *Reiterates its commitment* to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies;

3. *Urges* Member States to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[10] taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular those of countries with extensive expertise in alternative development;

4. *Reaffirms* the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, which highlight that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider strengthening the development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies;

6. *Also urges* Member States to consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities by taking into account their vulnerabilities and specific needs;

7. *Stresses* that, when designing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, the

[10] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

focus should be on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, taking into account their specific needs, and on strengthening local capacities, as ensuring the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development,

8. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available for tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government, strengthens local governance and institutions and promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, which, under Sustainable Development Goal 16,[2] includes the promotion of the rule of law;

9. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by individuals and communities, as well as on the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

10. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to promote inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection and addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies;

12. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, in a manner that is consistent with domestic law and regulations and with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

13. *Encourages* the development of strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, including the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair trade principles and commercialization of organic products;

14. *Encourages* the international community, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, to work with affected communities to develop recommendations focusing on specific alternative development strategies, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies, that take into account demographic, cultural, social and geographical conditions and include ideas for supporting and promoting new products;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

16. *Urges* Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies, and to continue to engage in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

17. *Encourages* the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages the consideration of development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

18. *Urges* Member States to consider the development of sustainable urban development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities, to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment;

19. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

20. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intragovernmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

21. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to support

Member States in effectively implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, with a view to further enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system,

22. *Encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best practices, promote research and increase efforts relating to the promotion of alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development;

23. *Encourages* Member States to promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities, in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate those activities, and to share best practices, lessons learned, expertise and skills in this regard;

24. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

25. *Reiterates* that, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, should be used when assessing alternative development programmes, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative programmes, in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit affected communities;

26. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, that target the illicit cultivation of drug crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water supply, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of drug crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen the resilience of communities;

27. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in accordance with the operational recommendation contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at

risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

28. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to continue to share best practices upon request, promote research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and foster and strengthen international cooperation, including cross-continental, interregional, subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which in some cases includes preventive alternative development;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of gender, social inclusion and cultural identity in the design and implementation of alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, and likewise also recognizes the importance of the participation of communities affected by illicit cultivation of crops in decision-making processes;

30. *Encourages* affected States and relevant development stakeholders to examine innovative ways to promote alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, that are environmentally friendly;

31. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017

Economic and Social Council

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24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 18 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2017/31)*]

2017/21. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2016/22 of 27 July 2016 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/212 of 21 December 2016 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[2] A/72/64-E/2017/12.

17-13285 (E)

Please recycle

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

Noting with appreciation the holding of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, and its outcome document entitled "Nairobi Maafikiano: From decision to action: Moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development",[3]

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

5. *Reaffirms* that one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda is to significantly increase access to information and communications technology;

6. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models, and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

7. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of girls and women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development;

8. *Recognizes* that information and communications technology infrastructure is fundamental to achieving the goal of digital inclusion and that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender, and

[3] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

therefore reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strives to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Development;

9. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

10. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

11. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

12. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of encouraging collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders, including international organizations, exchanging information among action line facilitators and other stakeholders, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process;

14. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

15. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

16. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;[1]

17. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 70/125, the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

18. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

19. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new electronic and mobile services and applications for health, agriculture, education, business, development, financial and government services, civic participation and transactional services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

20. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, and promote digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

21. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

22. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of

broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

23. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

24. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

25. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide and the knowledge divide are also changing in character, from a divide based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive therefrom, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

26. *Further recognizes* the importance of human capacity-building, an enabling environment and resilient information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and assistance to countries in their efforts to strengthen the enabling role of information and communications technology for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and notes the holding of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 under the overall theme "Information and Communications Technology for Sustainable Development Goals", in Buenos Aires from 9 to 20 October 2017;

27. *Welcomes* the eTrade for All initiative launched at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

28. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2016: Broadband Catalysing Sustainable Development*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

29. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution 70/125 to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, access to information and knowledge, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

30. *Welcomes* the many initiatives of United Nations organizations which support the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and encourages all action line facilitators to continue to work towards implementation of the action lines;

31. *Notes with great concern* the fact that women are 12 per cent less likely than men to make use of the Internet, and 31 per cent less likely to do so in the least developed countries, draws attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, calls upon Member States to adopt all appropriate measures, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

32. *Notes* the many initiatives targeted at closing the gender digital divide, including, among others, International Girls in ICT Day (International Telecommunication Union), the launch of the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age and the Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology Awards (International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Women on the Homepage (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Global Survey on Gender and Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender, the Best Practice Forum on Gender and Access of the Internet Governance Forum, the work being done in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum on gender issues and the work of the World Bank in a number of countries promoting opportunities for women and girls in information and communications technologies, as well as the work of many other stakeholders on this issue;

33. *Reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

34. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

35. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

36. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity,

the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

37. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually,[5] recognizes the value of the Forum in enhancing cooperation, partnership, innovation, the exchange of experiences and good practices by all stakeholders in information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and notes the most recent Forum, held in Geneva from 12 to 16 June 2017;

38. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action[6] as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by United Nations agencies;

39. *Encourages* World Summit action line facilitators to ensure close alignment to the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

40. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Internet governance

41. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

42. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[7]

43. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

Enhanced cooperation

44. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

45. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to

[5] See General Assembly resolution 70/125.

[6] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[7] See A/60/687.

develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, also notes that the Working Group will ensure the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise, and encourages participants in the Working Group to take forward their efforts to fulfil its mandate;

Internet Governance Forum

46. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

47. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

48. *Recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

49. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;[5]

50. *Notes* the holding of the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Mexico in Guadalajara from 6 to 9 December 2016, under the theme "Enabling inclusive and sustainable growth";

51. *Welcomes* the holding of the twelfth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Switzerland from 18 to 21 December 2017, under the theme "Shape your digital future!", and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum are being taken into consideration;

52. *Also welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

53. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

[5] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1

54. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries towards building information and knowledge societies;

55. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides;

56. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

57. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[7]

58. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators in open data format as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators;

59. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

60. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at all levels, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

61. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(*a*) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(*b*) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

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[7] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

(c) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*, which provides recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(d) Encourages the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to follow up on Statistical Commission decision 47/110 of 11 March 2016 on information and communications technology statistics,[11] and recommends in that context that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purposes of producing high quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

(e) Notes the holding, in Botswana, from 21 to 23 November 2016, of the fourteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium, and also notes the fifteenth Symposium, to be held in Tunisia from 14 to 16 November 2017;

62. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

63. *Recalls* the proposal in General Assembly resolution 70/125 that the Assembly hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2025;

64. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twentieth session;[11]

65. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit.

41st plenary meeting
6 July 2017

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[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 4* (E/2016/24), chap. I, sect. B.

[11] *Ibid., 2017, Supplement No. 11* (E/2017/31).

United Nations E/RES/2017/22

Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2017/31)*]

2017/22. Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2]

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/213 of 22 December 2015 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2015/242 of 22 July 2015 providing for the extension, until 2021, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 70/132 of 17 December 2015, 70/213, and 70/219 of 22 December 2015 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session,[1] in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for economic empowerment in the changing world of work,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divides, particularly the digital gender divide,

Recognizing that capabilities, for example, scientific and technological capacity, basic education and engineering, design, management and entrepreneurial skills, are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across countries, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels are essential and should be promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its two current priority themes, "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030",

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Recognizing the need for innovation approaches that respond to the needs of poor, grass-roots and marginalized communities in developing and developed countries and involve them in innovation processes and that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing also that technology foresight and assessment exercises, including gender-sensitive technologies, could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing further that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems[4] play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[5] including the principles referred to therein,

Recognizing the need to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with concern that about 795 million people, or every ninth person, are undernourished, the majority of whom live in developing countries and rural areas, and that new, existing and emerging technologies can address the multiple dimensions of food security,

Recognizing that harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation for food security would benefit from the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, investments in research and development, both public and private, human capital, infrastructure and market infrastructure, knowledge flows, an enabling environment, gender-sensitive approaches to technology development and dissemination, regional and international collaboration and mechanisms for technology foresight, and would also require the development of agricultural extension and advisory services, the promotion of the capacity to innovate, and effective and inclusive producers' organizations,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that science, technology and innovation policies must be aligned to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, specifically, economic development, social progress and environmental protection,

Taking into consideration that traditional knowledge can be a basis for technological development and the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

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[4] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

[5] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Noting that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Noting also various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting smart infrastructure, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people, particularly women, girls and youth, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020 and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including gender-sensitive aspects, for foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[6]

(v) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

[6] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(vii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(viii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(ix) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(x) To conduct assessments, including of gender-sensitive aspects, of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States;

(xi) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;

(xii) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(xiii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship;

(xiv) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xv) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as applying a gender lens when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;

(xvi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xvii) To encourage countries to progressively increase the rate of generation of high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, solving problems and enhancing human welfare;

(xviii) To increase national support for research and development in agriculture and support investments in infrastructure, extension services and marketing, organizational and social innovations to improve food security;

(xix) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xx) To ensure the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women and youth, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

(*b*) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To highlight scientific, technical and innovative applications for food security, including access to better data sources that feed into agricultural

[7] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

extension services, early warning systems for disasters and local innovation efforts; and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and regional and international cooperation;

(viii) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (*a*) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (*b*) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(ix) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessment and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for food security, including discussions about models of governance for new areas of scientific and technological development;

(x) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(xi) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development, in collaboration with relevant institutions, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(xii) To provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices but also failures and key challenges and learning from the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities, including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation;

(xiii) To contribute to alleviating the constraints faced by developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, through the creation of a Sustainable Development Goals resource access hub, through extrabudgetary resources, a vehicle which would be the repository of projects, data, financing mechanisms, technological advances and experts, as well as success stories, difficulties and obstacles encountered by countries;

(xiv) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xv) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related

to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums;

(xvi) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To broaden the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, including a specific focus on bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches to innovation, and social inclusion;

(iv) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(v) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

41st plenary meeting
6 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 18 (g)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 2017

[on the recommendation of Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2017/44)]

2017/23. Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2015/28 of 22 July 2015, 2016/26 of 27 July 2016 and other related resolutions on public administration and development, in which it affirmed that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration and that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Reaffirming further the outcome document, entitled "New Urban Agenda", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[1]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/327 of 14 September 2015, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of freedom, human rights, national sovereignty, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security, combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels as central to enabling inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development,

Noting the importance of integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning,

Referring to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[2] which entered into force on 14 December 2005,

[1] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/212 of 21 December 2016, in which the Assembly recognized the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divides, and stressing that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/228 of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions, in which the Assembly emphasized that efficient, accountable and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing the role of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration, and the relevance of the work of the Committee to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventeenth session,[1] and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Committee on ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, action and means, including on implications for public institutions of strategies for integrated action to achieve poverty eradication in accordance with the 2017 themes of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

2. *Invites* the Committee to continue to place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] at the centre of its work and to continue to advise the Council on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Committee to the high-level political forum, and reaffirms that the principle of leaving no one behind should be a core principle of public administration;

Transforming institutions for the Sustainable Development Goals

4. *Stresses* that Governments have the central role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world;

5. *Underscores* that realizing the Sustainable Development Goals requires addressing the deep inequalities that exist in many countries, which may require the State to play a greater role in effective redistribution and social protection programmes, including through more progressive and effective taxation systems and administration;

6. *Notes* that effective institutions are essential for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 24* (E/2017/44).

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

7. *Welcomes* the fact that many countries are in the process of identifying and updating policies, strategies, institutions and arrangements for spearheading and coordinating the implementation and progress review of the Sustainable Development Goals, and also welcomes the ongoing exchange of lessons learned on this topic at the high-level political forum;

8. *Underscores* that there is no single blueprint for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and that identifying the most effective policies in a given context requires the participation and engagement of all stakeholders, inter alia, local authorities, civil society and the private sector, on various policy options;

9. *Invites* Member States, therefore, to ensure that policies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals are developed in a participatory, inclusive and collaborative fashion, noting that it is important to institutionalize participation and engagement to ensure that various parts of civil society have an opportunity to make their voices heard;

10. *Recognizes* that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals does not necessarily require the creation of new institutions and that existing institutions, such as planning ministries, have a critical role to play, working together towards the Goals;

11. *Reiterates* the importance of the sectoral ministries in developing and implementing policies in their respective areas, taking into account the interlinkages inherent in the Sustainable Development Goals, and underscores that it may be useful to invite such ministries to identify the Goals and targets they will address most specifically and adjust or develop related implementation plans or strategies in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Notes with appreciation* that some countries have informed and engaged their parliaments in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and encourages all Governments to consider undertaking similar efforts, while noting that some parliaments have taken a proactive role in their implementation;

13. *Invites* Governments, international, regional and other organizations and the research community to develop practical tools to help policymakers in developing integrated plans and policies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals based on interrelations among the targets;

14. *Notes* that realizing the Sustainable Development Goals is closely related to the delivery of public services and that there are important political and societal discussions on the scope, nature and financing of those services in many countries, and accordingly invites the President of the Council to convene a dedicated meeting on delivering public services for the Goals with a view to sharing ideas and discussing challenges, approaches, policies and lessons learned, inter alia, with regard to promoting effective redistribution and social protection programmes, including through more progressive and effective taxation systems and administration;

15. *Recognizes* that the policies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals should be based on evidence and data and focused on achieving results;

16. *Also recognizes* the transformative power of information and communications technology, while noting that many forms of the digital divide remain;

17. *Welcomes* the fact that Governments are increasingly using information and communications technology to deliver public services and other functions and engage people in decision-making, as documented in the 2016 United Nations E-Government Survey, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

18. *Also welcomes* the symposium organized by the Government of the Bahamas and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat entitled "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in small island developing States: Equipping public institutions and mobilizing partnerships", held in Nassau from 21 to 23 February 2017, and invites the United Nations and other organizations to organize similar meetings for sharing experiences and building capacities within existing resources;

Promoting public sector leadership

19. *Stresses* that leadership at all levels of government and public administration is critical for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *Welcomes* the fact that, in some countries, the highest level of government has engaged or remains engaged in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Underscores* that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals requires the actions of not only Governments but also multiple actors of civil society and the private sector and the launching of effective partnerships;

22. *Stresses* that awareness and ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals by institutions at all levels and by society at large are essential to promote their implementation, and invites Governments to undertake concerted efforts to raise awareness and increase ownership of the Goals within national, regional and local authorities, civil society, the private sector and society at large;

23. *Invites* Governments to launch initiatives to build the awareness and commitment of civil servants at all levels to the vision of the 2030 Agenda and encourages them to take leadership roles, innovate and break away from business as usual, inter alia, to address the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals; and also invites Governments to build the capacities and skills of civil servants in areas such as integrated and coherent policymaking, planning, implementation, foresight, consultation, evidence-based reviews of progress and the collection and use of statistics and data;

24. *Encourages* Governments to redouble efforts to ensure respect for the rule of law by institutions at all levels and ensure a merit-based civil service, which helps to promote public ethics and ensures effective and fair human resources management;

Implications of poverty eradication for public institutions

25. *Stresses* that eradicating poverty requires a whole-of-government approach whereby the highest level of government and every ministry and institution at the local or national level is committed to realizing that goal;

26. *Underscores* that the experience of some countries has shown that eradicating poverty requires multidimensional and targeted poverty eradication strategies entailing actions related to promoting inclusive economic growth; employment and decent work; social protection and equity; education and skills;

health; food and nutrition; housing; infrastructure; energy; water and sanitation; the environment and climate change; the building of effective, inclusive and accountable institutions; and other areas of the 2030 Agenda;

27. *Underlines* that the rule of law, peace and security, an independent judiciary and the proper administration of justice are critical conditions for improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable;

28. *Stresses* that poverty eradication strategies need to address rural and urban poverty and that a national plan for regional development may help to address the frequent disparities in the levels of poverty across territorial units within countries;

29. *Underscores* that continued weaknesses in governance, including corruption and the excessive influence of influential groups in society, hinder the effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies and the adequate allocation of resources, and invites countries to redouble efforts in addressing those issues;

30. *Reiterates* that, in designing poverty eradication strategies, Governments need to engage civil society and all segments of society, including the poorest and most vulnerable people, while building broad support and a solid consensus involving also the middle class and minorities;

31. *Notes* that, for reaching the poorest and most vulnerable, Governments often need to work with civil society and the private sector, and encourages Governments to continue to leverage such partnerships while safeguarding the quality and affordability of services for the poorest and most vulnerable;

Supporting and equipping local authorities

32. *Underscores* that subnational governments and, in particular, local governments have a critical role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicating poverty, given their proximity to the population and, at the grass-roots level, their role in delivering basic public services and their ability to take integrated approaches, bearing in mind that Goal 11 is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

33. *Notes* that, to best respond to the situation, expectations and needs of people, it can be useful to transfer implementation roles and public functions related to specific Sustainable Development Goals from the central Government to local governments and other local agencies or institutions;

34. *Emphasizes* that, regardless of the model or the extent of decentralization in a country, both the central and local governments have a responsibility for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it is critical that they work together in a spirit of collaboration and partnership;

35. *Affirms* that the resources and capacities of local governments should be commensurate with their responsibilities, and therefore notes that responsibility for the implementation of specific Sustainable Development Goals and targets should be transferred to the local level only if accompanied by an adequate level of financial resources and capacity development;

36. *Notes* that resources transferred from the central Government are thus often critical to support social and other programmes towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and invites countries, international organizations and other actors to support local governments and build their capacities to mobilize resources in a coordinated way;

37. *Stresses* the need to build the skills and capacities of elected officials and civil servants at the local level so that they are equipped to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Reviewing progress

38. *Reaffirms* that Governments are accountable to their people for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

39. *Welcomes* the commitment of supreme audit institutions to contribute to reviewing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, as expressed in the strategic plan of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions for the period from 2017 to 2022, and invites Governments to consider availing themselves of that support;

40. *Notes* that people need to have a clear understanding of the respective responsibilities, activities and results of the various public institutions, including those at local levels, and encourages the creation of platforms, forums or tools to make such information available;

41. *Emphasizes* the need to monitor the impact of public institutions and policies on poverty eradication and other Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive and evidence-based approaches engaging also the poorest and most vulnerable;

42. *Encourages* Governments to develop an open government system as a model of governance that focuses on citizens and establishes a new relationship between public administration and society;

43. *Reiterates* that disaggregated data are critical for policymaking and review, and calls for further efforts to build the capacities of national statistical offices as independent institutions;

Elaborating principles of effective governance

44. *Recognizes* the need for pragmatic ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, and notes the work of the Committee on the elaboration of principles of responsible and effective governance which could serve as an important reference point in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals;

Follow-up

45. *Requests* the Committee, at its seventeenth session, to be held from 23 to 27 April 2018, to examine and make recommendations on the theme of the 2018 session of the Council;

46. *Invites* the Committee to contribute to the thematic review of the high-level political forum and to work towards contributing to the overall review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to be conducted by the high-level political forum in 2019, giving particular attention to the cross-cutting nature of all the Goals;

47. *Also invites* the Committee to continue to advise on approaches and practices related to the institutions, policies and arrangements being established to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind

that the specific contexts and situations of countries differ widely, as well as to advise on making institutions effective, inclusive and accountable;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the present resolution fully into account in the work of the Organization, inter alia, in addressing gaps in research and analysis and in responding to the capacity development needs of Member States for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in pursuit of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

49. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and support innovation and excellence in public services for sustainable development through the United Nations Public Service Awards;

50. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution through the established working methods of the Committee.

42nd plenary meeting
7 July 2017

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 18 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.26)*]

2017/24. Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, of the outcome document entitled "New Urban Agenda",[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the preparations undertaken for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);[3]

2. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-second session;

3. *Recalls* that the Secretary-General will report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda[2] every four years, in accordance with paragraphs 166 to 168 of the Agenda and the footnote thereto, and looks forward to the first report to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in 2018.

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7 July 2017

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

[3] E/2017/61.

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